

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 141292

FOLLOWING REPEAT KINSHASA 5738, ACTION SECSTATE PARIS INFO
BRUSSELS RABAT LUBUMBASHI 04 JUNE:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 5738

PARIS PLEASE PASS UNDERSECRETARY NEWSOM

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, CG, US
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S VISIT TO LUBUMBASHI

REF: KINSHASA 5688

1. I SPENT THE DAY JUNE 3 IN LUBUMBASHI WHERE I DISCUSSED CURRENT
SITUATION WITH AMERICAN COMMUNITY (BUSINESS, MISSIONAIRES, PEACE
CORPS), AND CALLED ON SHABA'S MILITARY GOVERNOR, GENERAL SINGA.

2. THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT EXPATRIATES IN LUBUMBASHI, AMERICANS
INCLUDED, ARE EXTREMELY ANXIOUS CONCERNING SECURITY.

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MY ITALIAN AND BELGIAN COLLEAGUES CAME AWAY WITH THE SAME IMPRESSION
FOLLOWING THEIR VISITS TO LUBUMBASHI EARLIER IN THE WEEK. REPLACING
REGIONAL COMMISSIONER WITH MILITARY GOVERNOR, IMPOSITION OF DUSK-TO-
DAWN CURFEW AND PERVASIVE PRESENCE OF MILITARY THROUGHOUT CITY
ALL CONTRIBUTE TO SIEGE PSYCHOLOGY AMONG POPULACE.

3. ALTHOUGH EVIDENCE IS LACKING, ALL EXPATRIATES SEEM TO FEAR

THE PRESENCE OF KATANGAN REBELS IN THE ENVIRONS OF LUBUMBASHI AND THE LIKELIHOOD OF THEIR ATTACKING THE CITY AS SOON AS THE EUROPEAN TROOPS WITHDRAW. WHILE THEY SEEM SOMEWHAT RE-ASSURED BY THE PROSPECT OF A FORCE COMPOSED OF MOROCCANS AND SOME OTHER AFRICANS FILLING THE VOID WHEN THE FRENCH AND BELGIAN TROOPS PULL OUT, THERE SEEM TO BE DIVIDED OPINIONS AS TO WHETHER SUCH A FORCE WILL BE SUFFICIENT TO INDUCE THE EXPATRIATES TO STAY ON. CERTAINLY THEY WILL LOOK TO THE FORCE TO PROTECT THEM NOT ONLY FROM REBEL ATTACK BUT JUST AS MUCH FROM EXCESSES OF ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT TROOPS WHO ARE VERY MUCH IN EVIDENCE AND WHOSE INDISCIPLINE CONTINUES TO BE THE SOURCE OF NUMEROUS INCIDENTS AMONG BOTH THE ZAIRIAN AND EXPATRIATE POPULATIONS.

4. WHILE THERE IS A DISCREET BUT STEADY FLOW OF EXPATRIATE DEPENDENTS OUT OF SHABA, NO MASS EXODUS HAS YET OCCURRED. OBVIOUSLY IT WOULDN'T TAKE MUCH TO START ONE, AND THE WAY IN WHICH THE MOROCCANS

ET AL REPLACE THE BELGIAN AND FRENCH FORCES (I.E., AS GRADUALLY AS POSSIBLE, IN SUFFICIENTLY LARGE NUMBERS, AND POSITIONED IN URBAN AREAS WHERE EUROPEANS ARE CONCENTRATED) WILL HAVE AN IMPORTANT EFFECT ON EXPATRIATE ATTITUDES. IN THIS RESPECT, IF FRENCH INSIST ON PULLING OUT QUICKLY, THE RETENTION OF SOME BELGIAN FORCES FOR LONGER PERIOD - PERHAPS IN FORM OF AIR-MOBILE QUICK-REACTION FORCE STATIONED AT KAMINA AS SUGGESTED REFTEL - WOULD HELP. EXPATRIATE ANXIETIES WILL OF COURSE ALSO BE ALLAYED IF NO REBEL THREAT TO LUBUMBASHI MATERIALIZES AS TIME PASSES.
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5. AS FOR THE AMERICANS, WHILE NOT FORMALLY MOVING INTO ANY OPERATIONAL PLAN OF EVACUATION, THE CONSULATE NEVERTHELESS IS TAKING A NUMBER OF PRECAUTIONARY STEPS TO BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO COPE WITH AN EMERGENCY SHOULD IT ARISE. I BELIEVE THIS IS A CORRECT COURSE OF ACTION GIVEN THE MANY CURRENT UNCERTAINTIES. THE CONSULATE'S HANDLING OF THE SITUATION TO DATE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN EFFECTIVE AND WIDELY APPRECIATED AMONG AMERICANS IN THE REGION.

6. DURING MY TALK WITH GENERAL SINGA I TOOK THE OCCASION TO ASK THAT ALL POSSIBLE PROTECTION BE EXTENDED TO THE FACILITIES IN KOLWEZI OF CIS, THE US FIRM CONSTRUCTING THE INGA-SHABA POWER LINE. I NOTED THE EMBASSY'S APPEAL TO FAZ COMMANDER GENERAL BABIA IN KINSHASA EARLIER IN THE WEEK, AS WELL AS CONSULATE LUBUMBASHI'S LETTER TO GENERAL SINGA JUNE 2, BOTH OF WHICH EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT REPORTS OF PILLAGING AND VANDALISM OF CIS PROPERTY AND ASKED FOR PROTECTION. SINGA SAID HE HAD THAT MORNING (JUNE 3) SENT ORDERS TO KOLWEZI COMMANDER GENERAL DIKUTA TO INSPECT CIS FACILITIES AND TAKE STEPS NECESSARY TO PROVIDE SECURITY AT CIS SITE.

7. I ALSO RAISED WITH SINGA MATTER OF HUMANITARIAN AID. HE SEEMED

QUITE KNOWLEDGEABLE OF RED CROSS ACTIVITIES AT KOLWEZI, INCLUDING THE SUPPLY OF EMERGENCY FOOD AID, AND EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THIS RELIEF PROGRAM WAS PROCEEDING WELL. CONSULATE LUBUMBASHI WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR PROGRAM CLOSELY WITH VIEW TO ASSESSING ITS EFFECTIVENESS AND IDENTIFYING AREAS WHERE ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE MAY BE REQUIRED.

8. REFLECTING MOBUTU'S CURRENT LINE THAT THINGS WERE RETURNING TO NORMAL, SINGA CLAIMED KOLWEZI MINING FACILITIES WERE GETTING GOING AGAIN THANKS TO GECAMINES ZAIRIAN TECHNICIANS WHO, UNLIKE THEIR EUROPEAN CONTERPARTS, HAD NOT FLED. (IN OVER-FLYING KOLWEZI WE NOTICED ONE -- BUT ONLY ONE -- SMOKESTACK BACK IN OPERATION.) SINGA ALSO CLAIMED THAT SECURITY IN WESTERN SHABA WAS MUCH IMPROVED. HOWEVER, IN RESPONSE TO QUERY HE WAS VAGUE ABOUT WHO CONFIDENTIAL

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CONTROLS MUTSHATSHA, ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THERE WERE STILL POCKETS OF REBELS CLOSE TO THE TOWN. HE DID NOT MENTION FAZ'S RETAKING MUTSHATSHA WITHOUT THE AID OF FOREIGN TROOPS, AS WAS ANNOUNCED BY GOZ LATER THE SAME DAY.

9. FINALLY, SINGA SAID HE DID NOT SEE REASON FOR BELGIAN AND FRENCH TROOPS TO REMAIN IN SHABA ONCE AFRICAN FORCE WAS IN PLACE SUPPORTING FAZ. THIS STRUCK ME MORE AS PERSONAL VIEW THAN STATEMENT OF OFFICIAL POSITION. HOWEVER, IT DOES RAISE THE QUESTIONS OF BOTH THE GOZ'S SENSITIVITY TO CHARGES THAT FAZ IS HELPLESS, AND OF POSSIBLE GOZ RESENTMENT OF EUROPEANS' RELUCTANCE TO COMMIT THEIR TROOPS BEYOND MERELY PROTECTING THEIR NATIONALS. CUTLER UNQUOTE. CHRISTOPHER

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